



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

May 29, 2020



Deputy Secretary's Agenda



- Opening Remarks
- DDA Regional Office Update
- Reopening Update
- Questions

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- The DDA's highest priority is the health, safety, and wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, staff, and providers
- This week you heard Governor Hogan announce resumption of outdoor dining, additional activities to complete stage one of the Road to Recovery Plan
- The DDA understands that our stakeholders are in various phases of COVID-19 pandemic and discussion of reopening their meaningful day program is critical in moving forward

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- The DDA has received concerns related to the 18 retainer payments and there seems to be some confusion and/or misunderstanding of what this means
- The approval of Appendix K, *amends* the existing 1915(c) waiver authority. For us, this means that the understanding or interpretation of the service provisions regarding retainer payments/fees in the current 1915(c) application is null and void. The Appendix K is our official authority to implement the provisions and requirements in the DDA Waivers

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- CMS reiterated that retainer payments/fees must be tied to the State's Nursing Facility bed hold policy, as has always been the case in Maryland's State Plan. In fact, CMS provided explicit language for us to use in the Appendix K application for the provision of paying retainer payments
- The DDA has shared our stakeholder's concerns with Medicaid and will continue to advocate locally and nationally as we know this is a critical issue for all of us

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Community-Base Approach Recovery plan

- The DDA is currently coordinating with national-level groups such the National Association of State Developmental Disabilities Directors (NASDDDS) and the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) to help formulate ideas, promising practices, and framework related to “Reopening Day Services”. This information will be shared with providers for their consideration as they are drafting their reopening plans
 1. Day Services- prevocational, employment and transportation
 2. Financial Considerations
 3. Health and Safety Strategies
 4. “Sun Rise” Phase- Introducing New Possibilities

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Community-Base Approach Recovery plan Continue

- The DDA will continue to empower our stakeholders with the flexibility to determine timing of reopening and participants choosing when it is best for them for resuming their day support services and follow the Center for Disease Control Guidance and Governors phases
- The DDA will be sharing information for stakeholders' considerations in developing a framework based on national best practices so that each provider can create their own individual reopening plans as appropriate since providers are at different stages and/or have various capacities at this time

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Community-Base Approach Recovery plan Continue

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance is an underpinning of all approaches and considerations
- Each county/locality may require a different approach based on local government orders
- Considerations must have an eye to community-based options, self-direction and use of technology

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Participants and Families to Consider

- Continue engaging in conversations with your CCS and Service Provider(s) regarding current needs, service delivery options, flexibilities that exist such as when to return to particular services

Provider Agencies to Consider

- Keep participants, families, staff, Coordinator of Community Services (CCS) and your DDA Regional Office Director up-to-date on any plans to reopen services that may have been closed, by creating and sharing an agency reopening plan

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- **Providers may want to consider the following when creating their agency reopening plan:**
 - Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and guidelines;
 - State and local level orders, recommendations and guidelines;
 - Health and safety protocols, including how to monitor health of individuals/staff, use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
 - Infection control and prevention for individuals and staff, including identification of risk factors and mitigation strategies for people in higher risk categories;
 - Environmental assessment, cleaning and disinfection plans;
 - Staffing plans;
 - Physical distancing strategies;
 - Training needs and strategies for participants, families, and staff;
 - Transportation plan;
 - Use of innovative practices (i.e. use of remote supports, telehealth, hybrid in-person/remote supports, flexible and/or use of block scheduling); and
- 10 • Communications plan

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Consider assessing your current status

Technology:

- What technology do people have at home and what technology do they need
- Once they have technology, what supports do they need to receive virtual supports, participate in group activities and continue with their growth, development and gaining social capital
- Staff may need technology and to be trained as well as this is a different type of support than they have had in the past

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Assessing your current status

Capacity:

- Assess which people you support can safely go out in the community by determining if people are high, medium or low risk from being impacted by COVID
- Assess which people want to go into the community
- Poll staff to determine if they are high, medium or low risk- so you know which staff can do face to face supports and which will need to continue to do remote supports

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

Assessing your current status

Vision for the Future:

- What is your vision-Write down what your vision for the future is:
- Transportation
- A framework of supports
- Staff training

Resources

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Maryland Coronavirus Main Resource Page

- <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) COVID-19 Resource Page

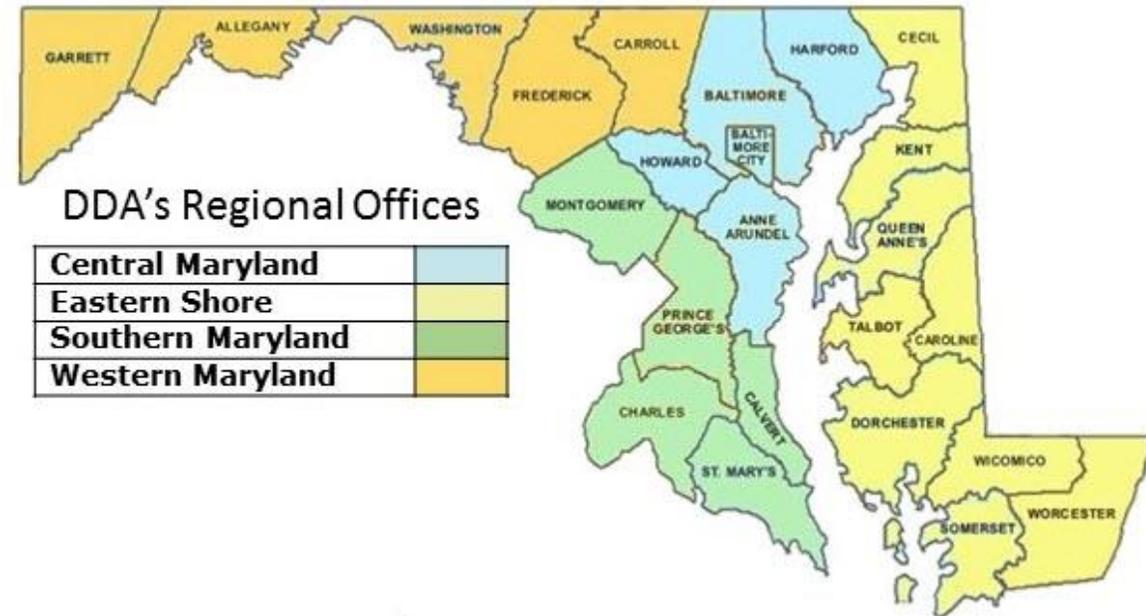
- https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/DDA_COVID-19_Information.aspx

Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education

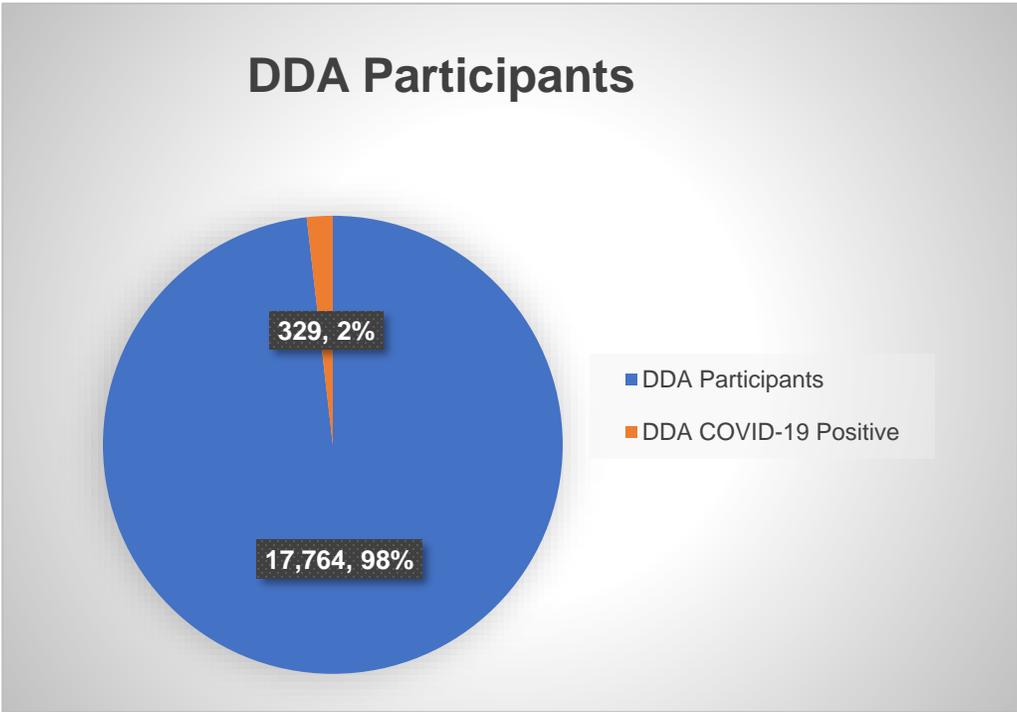
- <http://marylandpublicschools.org/newsroom/Documents/MSDERecoveryPlan.pdf>
- [Maryland's Roadmap to Recovery](#)
- https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MD_Strong.pdf

Regional Updates

- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke
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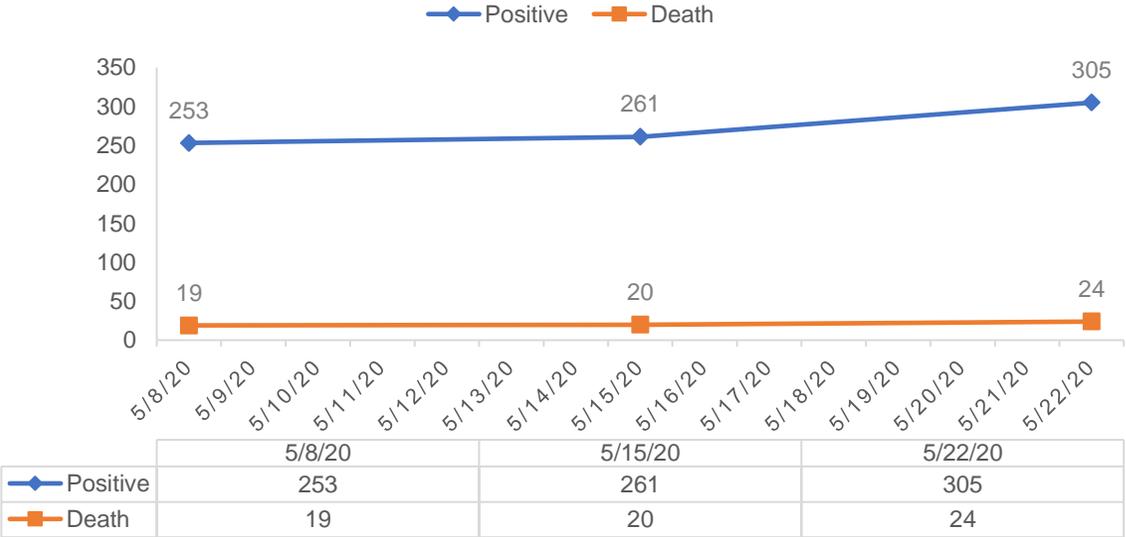


DDA's Tracking



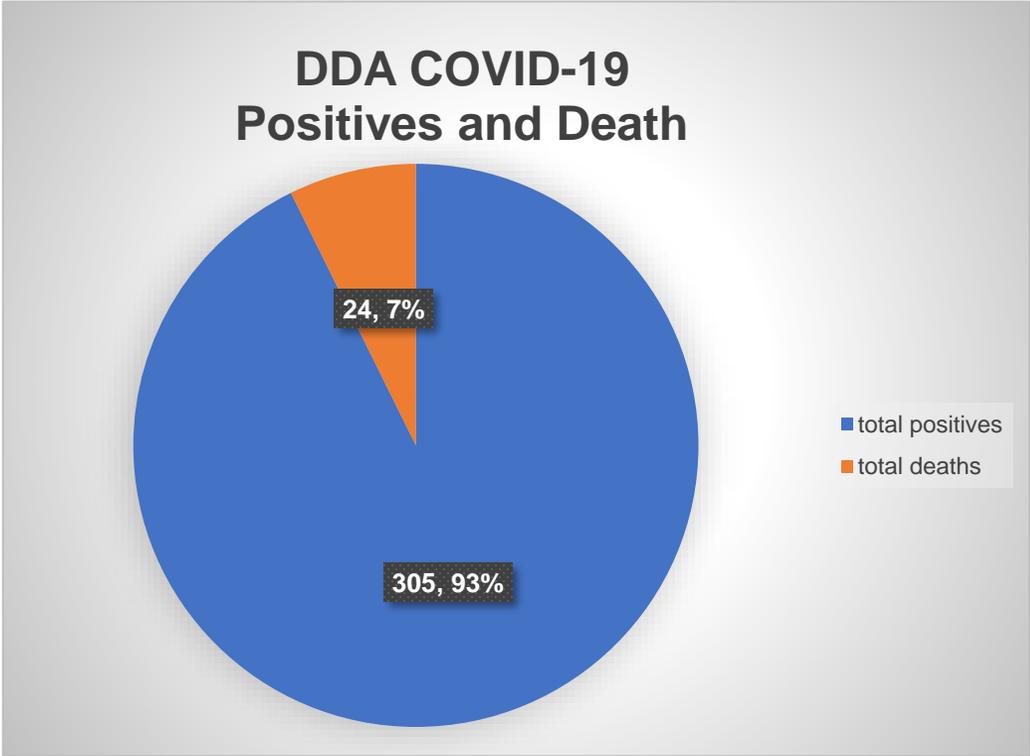
There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 2% have tested positive for COVID-19.

STATEWIDE DDA TOTALS MAY 8 THROUGH MAY 22, 2020

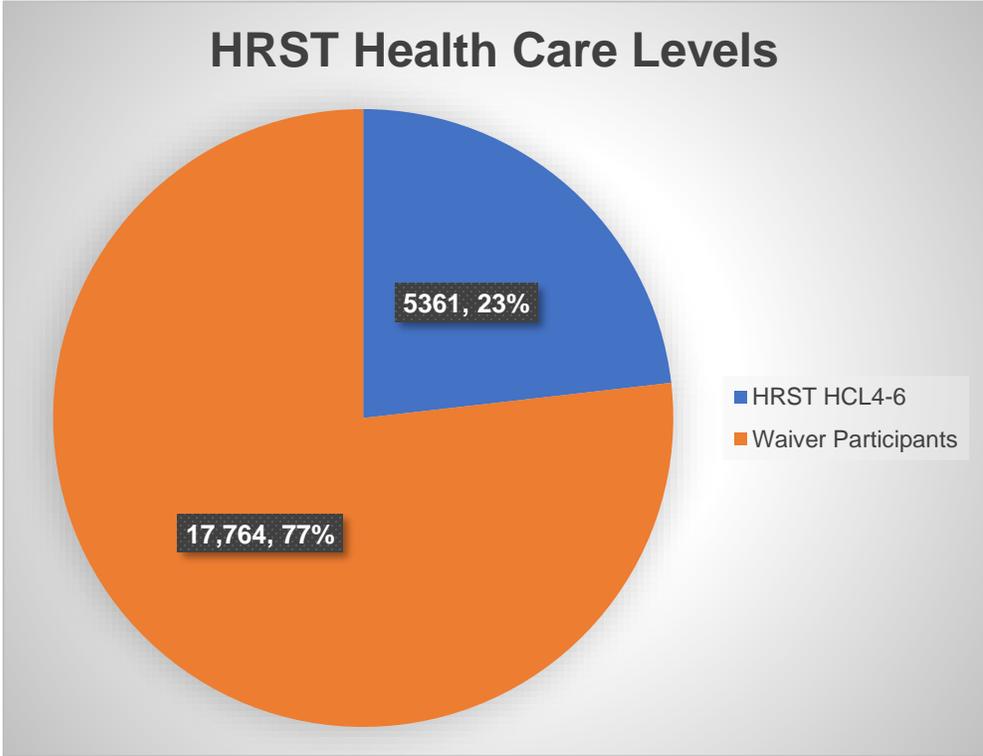


DDA had a total of 305 positive cases week ending May 22nd and 24 deaths

DDA Tracking



The 24 deaths represents approximately 7% of all positive individuals.



Although 23% of the participants have been identified as high risk, only 2% tested positive

The DDA Commitment

- We will continue to share information and resources
- We will continue to collaborate and advocate on behalf of the people you support, their families, and staff
- We will help Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities thrive
- We will continue to keep you updated

Questions

